(b) there has been no official statement, press release or disclosure by the Army on this subject.

(c) India has a free press and Government does not follow a restrictive policy towards the press.

Indo-Us cross-servicing agreement

1521. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to sign a cross-servicing agreement with the United States in near future;

(b) if so,the details thereof;

(c) whether the United States has already signed this type of treaty with Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) An Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement (ACSA) with the United States is under the consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) As per available information, an Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement was signed between Pakistan and United States on February 9, 2002. The Agreement seeks to facilitate the reciprocal provision of logistics support.

Curbing terror by Pakistan

1522. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Army has indicated that there is no sign of Pakistan curbing terror;

(b) if so, whether according to Army sources, Pakistan Army adds fresh batches of Taliban terrorists crossing the border;

(c) if so, whether border firing continues on the LoC on a large scale; and

(d) if so, whether there was no improvement in the situation even after the meeting at Kazakhistan where 16 Nations Summits on Security in Asia was held?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) There has been some reduction in infiltration and cross border terrorism after the speech of the Pakistan President on 27th May, 2002 and the Kazakhistan summit in early June, 2002, which may be due to deployment of security forces and effective counter infiltration measures.

Inputs indicate that there are concentrations of Al-Qaida terrorists/ Taliban's in Pakistan occupied Kashmir with an intent to infiltrate into J&K at an opportune moment.

Trans-border firing in J&K, a regular feature, head escalated since Mid-May, 2002, post Kalachuk incident. But, there has been some reduction since the middle of June, 2002.

Refugees from Sri Lanka

†1523. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of refugees of Sri Lanka has been increasing constantly;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any steps to check this problem; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Though some refugees from Sri Lanka have been coming to India, the influx of Sri Lankan refugees has shown a decline in the past years as is evident from reports received from the Government of Tamil Nadu:—

S. No.	Year	No. of Refugees
1.	1999	4977
2.	2000	1620
3.	2001	505
4.	2002	55 (upto June)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.